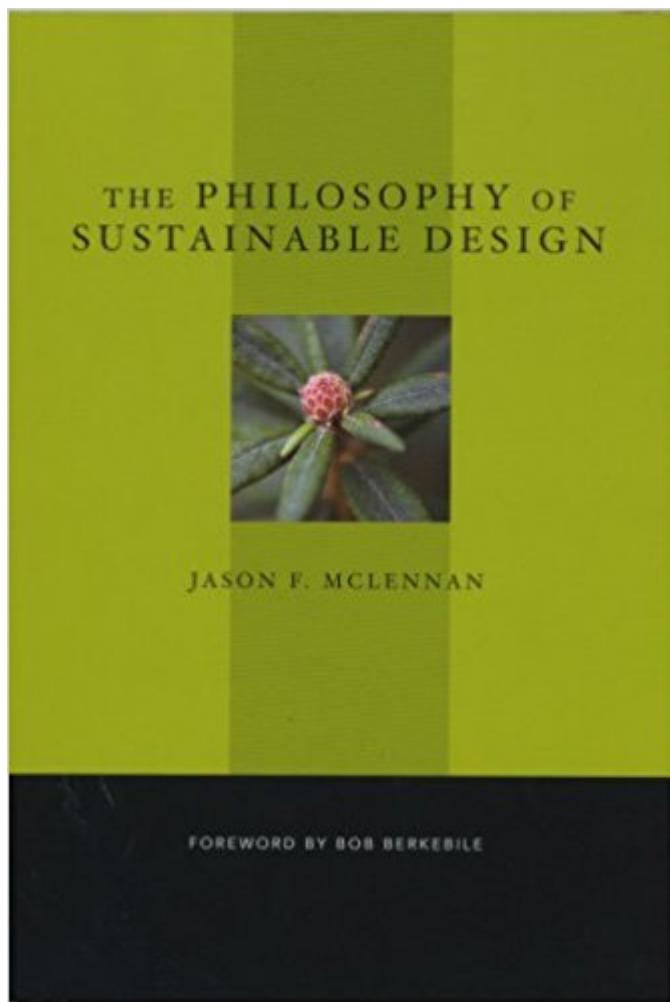


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# The Philosophy Of Sustainable Design



## Synopsis

In the Philosophy of Sustainable Design, McLennan outlines the major ideas and issues that have emerged in the growing movement of green architecture and sustainable design over the last thirty years. This book is intended as a starting point for anyone involved in the building industry on a journey to learn how they can build more responsibly. The book is rooted in practical knowledge but rather than being a "how to book" asks individuals to understand how the philosophy of sustainable design can affect their own work. Part Sustainable Design 101 and part manifesto this book lays the groundwork and philosophical basis for more technical study. McLennan relies on his extensive experience with sustainable design having consulted to dozens of projects and design teams all over the country. Tapping into the work of many pioneers and green design philosophers; McLennan clearly presents a framework for people to understand Sustainable Design and how ultimately it will become the future of architecture and design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Bold, insightful and inspiring, McLennan has given us a compelling vision of sustainable design in its historical and philosophical context." -- Nadav Malin, Editor, Environmental Building News"McLennan's graceful and accessible articulation of the underpinnings of sustainable design is jam packed with wisdom, tools and inspiration." -- Gail Vittori, Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems"With passion and clarity Jason McLennan has traced the past, present and future of green design." -- William D. Browning, Founder of the Green Development Services at the Rocky Mountain Institute

Jason F. McLennan is a designer who specializes in sustainable design. Born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, Jason is the founder and Director of Elements, the green consulting division of BNIM Architects in Kansas City, one of the nation's leading environmentally minded architecture firms. He is also the CEO of Ecotone, which provides educational tools for sustainability and innovative design solutions for the single-family home.

This was used as a college textbook for my class on sustainable design. The professor thought that, since the students asked for some sort of textbook instead of just lectures, that a sustainable book would be best. I liked her idea. This book was much more cost effective than any college textbook I have bought so far, and went well with her lectures. I wish more professors would opt for this sort of book as there are thousands of good books out there that teach the same thing as a \$100 text book. I actually read quite a bit more than was assigned in the class because the information in the book was quite interesting, and I hadn't come across many of the designs before. Written in plain language for the neophyte environmental designer in mind, it is a perfect overview of some of the currently available technologies and designs available to put into your own home.

Even though the book barely has any pictures, the information presented in it is incredibly valuable. It teaches you the recently established principles of sustainable design. It tells you what sustainable design really is and how wrong many of our buildings which are supposed to be sustainable are. This book is an eye opener for those who thought they knew what sustainable design is! The information is well organized, which makes reading this much information actually fun. I really recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn the truth about sustainability.

Informational and inspiring, with cool little facts. Short easy read, breeze through the chapters. Got it for a class, it was a nice supplemental read

I came late to bionomics, after I was inspired by Herman Daly's *Ecological Economics: Principles And Applications*, Brian Czech's *Shoveling Fuel for a Runaway Train: Errant Economists, Shameful Spenders, and a Plan to Stop them All*; and everything by Paul Hawkin, but especially *The Ecology of Commerce*. I have had an interest in the intersection of global science, sustainable political and social and economic orders, and the vulnerability of the nation-state in the face of growing complexity for some time, and many of my other reviews focus on

these literatures, as well as the literatures of collective intelligence, global assemblages, wealth of networks, localized resilience, and so on. I make mention of that broader literature to add emphasis to my view that this book is one of the most extraordinary I have ever encountered. I made a mistake when I first got it months ago and put it sight unseen into my "hard and dense, save for intercontinental trip." This book is not hard, not dense, and it is both easy to read and intellectually elegant. I can easily see this book as the single mandatory first year or summer pre-reading at any level--undergraduate or graduate--along with contextual books such as: High Noon 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization, Third Edition The Future of Life The leadership of civilization building: Administrative and civilization theory, symbolic dialogue, and citizen skills for the 21st century A and Collective Intelligence: Creating a Prosperous World at Peace The sixteen chapters and five appendices are elegant--concise, clear key points, short, just the right mix of photos (including color in a center spread) figures, and text. The publisher has been criminally remiss in failing to load the varied items that allows, such as the table of contents. I am increasingly disenchanted with publishers and of the view that should get into the book publishing business, sending digital copies to FedEx Kinko's, helping authors self publish (full disclosure: BOTH Fred Smith at FedEx and Jeff Bezos at blew me off--these guys are simply not serious about innovation). Preface: Philosophical Beginnings Chapter 1: The Philosophy of Sustainable Design Chapter 2: The Evolution of Sustainable Design Chapter 3: The Principles of Sustainable Design (Biomimicry) Chapter 4: The Principles of Sustainable Design (Human Vitality) Chapter 5: The Principles of Sustainable Design (Ecosystem/Bioregional) Chapter 6: The Principles of Sustainable Design (Seven Generations) Chapter 7: The Principles of Sustainable Design (Energy/True Cost) Chapter 8: The Principles of Sustainable Design (Holistic Thinking) Chapter 9: The Technologies and Components of Sustainable Design Chapter 10: Shades of Green--Levels of Sustainability Chapter 11: Productivity and Well-Being Chapter 12: Greening Your Organization Chapter 13: Green Economics Chapter 14: The Sustainable Design Process--Holistic Thinking Chapter 15: The Aesthetics of Sustainable Design Chapter 16: The Future of Architecture Appendix A: The Green Warrior Reading List Appendix B: Who's Who in Green Design Appendix C: The Phases of Green Design Appendix D: The Elements of Green Design Methodology Appendix F: The Principles of Sustainable Design--Summary I put this book down with several thoughts: 1) Enormously impressed with the University of Oregon in Eugene, to the point of trying to get my oldest to take his computer and creative skills there. 2) Profoundly delighted with the deep philosophical underpinning that one finds throughout the book, without pretense or pomposity. 3) The one appendix I would have liked to see that is not there is the one entitled: Green

to Gold--Bottom-Line Dollar Savings Over Time, and then a whole range of the elements of sustainable design by climate zone. This is an extremely satisfying book to read. My last thought: it's time to write the Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth. Read more about this at Earth Intelligence Network. This book by Jason McLennan is a perfect model for what the larger systems book should strive to be. See also the literatures under panarchy, resilience, sustainability.

This book was a huge inspiration to me as a construction professional and discusses ideas and philosophies that go beyond the design and building industry.

Concise work but with some lapses, however it's highly recommended

Full of technical data in sustainable design it was my best reference for my master degree in architectural sustainable design.

This book should definitely be on the must-read list for anyone interesting in sustainability. Describes a plethora of green building technologies, concepts, and practices without being overly technical. Although focused on green building, the discussion includes and applies to many other industries.

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